

HOUSE TAX BILL PREFERRED TO MELLON'S PLAN

Senate Committee Will Refuse Retroactive Surtax Repeal. DECIDES TO KEEP 32 PER CENT RATE Likely to Follow House On Excess Profits Provisions.

The Senate Finance Committee, it now develops, will reject the major recommendations of the administration for changes in the tax bill, and will adhere to the principles contained in the measure as it was adopted by the House.

The committee definitely decided yesterday that the reduction in surtax rates should be made effective on January 1, 1922, as the House provided. Secretary of the Treasury Mellon recommended that the reduction be made retroactive to January 1, 1921, so it would apply to the current year.

House Decision Favored.

At the same time, it was strongly indicated that the committee will make the repeal of the excess profits tax effective January 1, 1922. Here again there is concurrence in the House provisions, and repudiation of Mellon's suggestion.

Another important decision of the committee yesterday was that the maximum surtax rate should be kept at 32 per cent, as the House voted. Secretary Mellon asked that a reduction to 25 per cent be made. The final form of the capital stock tax and the corporation tax are yet to be decided.

Will Settle Question Today.

The excess profits question, and others remaining to be finally determined, will be settled today, according to Senator Penrose, committee chairman. Minor matters hinging on the main points will then be disposed of rapidly, and specialists will whip the bill into shape for presentation to the Senate when Congress re-convenes September 21.

Senator Penrose said he will bring the tax bill before the Senate at once.

"I will call up the bill immediately and press for its passage at every opportunity," said Penrose. "I anticipate no great delay."

Against Penrose's Advice.

Penrose has favored repeal of the excess profits tax as of January 1, 1921. If the committee follows the course now strongly indicated, it will run counter to the chairman as well as to Secretary Mellon.

These developments minimize the possibility of a long-drawn-out battle with the House. The lower chamber was prepared to contest Senate alterations, and delay in final enactment of the tax bill was in prospect as a result.

The decision not to commit to follow the lead of the House is not officially explained. It is believed, however, that fear was felt that voters would regard the revenue bill with disfavor if the impression were circulated that it was a "rich man's bill," which relieved corporations and persons of great wealth, while reducing in no way the contributions of the small taxpayer.

Miss Washington Declines Stage and Film Offers

Tired Out by Strenuous Week, She Will Rest At Her Home.

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The reply is on its way by special courier to the British Premier in Scotland.

Depends on Interpretation.

The reply is, therefore, a rejection of an acceptance according to whichever interpretation Lloyd George cares to place upon it. If the premier insists upon the principle of allegiance as an undebatable proposition, De Valera's answer cannot be considered otherwise than as a refusal to enter the negotiations. If, however, Lloyd George is willing to discuss all phases of the situation, including this principle, the conference will be held.

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MEXICO CLOTHES POOR IN HONOR OF INDEPENDENCE

Centennial Festivities Include Lottery to Aid Invalid Soldiers.

Mexico is celebrating the centennial of her independence this month.

The festivities opened last Saturday with the secretary of state's reception to foreign diplomats.

Free distribution of clothing to 20,000 poor with the chief event of Sunday.

A gala performance by the Mexico city council was held yesterday.

Homage to independence heroes by the President and cabinet was given in the cathedral. Incidental to the festivities is the centennial lottery of 3500,000, the proceeds of which go to invalid soldiers' institutions.

RAIL SECURITIES SOLD TO PROVIDE FUNDS FOR ROADS

Administration Goes Ahead Without Waiting on Congress.

The administration, without waiting for Congressional action, has begun the sale of securities to provide funds for the railroads.

Car trust certificates in the amount of \$7,500,000 have been bought by Kuhn, Loeb and Company, bankers of New York, the railroad administration announced yesterday.

The money derived will be utilized by the Railroad Administration in making settlements with the carriers, supplying funds they urgently need.

Certificates Total \$380,000,000.

The sale is the first of large transactions which the administration carries through in the near future, an indication in the money market improve. Car trust certificates which the government holds total \$380,000,000, and they will be sold as rapidly as conditions warrant.

The proceeds will go to the railroads in order to tide them over until Congress has had an opportunity to act on the administration's railroad funding bill. This measure provides for utilization of the machinery of the War Finance Corporation in selling obligations which the railroads propose to give to government for their indebtedness. Funds from the sale would be used to pay the indebtedness of the government to the roads.

Meanwhile, however, railroads have made earnest representations as to the immediate need for help, and the administration decided to proceed. President Harding and his advisors hope that the revival of the buying operation of the railroad will stimulate industry, and will be an important factor in relieving unemployment.

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ROOT REFUSAL OF LEAGUE JOB PROVES SHOCK

Delegates Dismayed by His Decision Not To Run.

GENEVA, Sept. 12.—Elhu Root's refusal to be a candidate for judge of the international court of justice threw a bombshell into league of nations circles here today. It was expected that Root would stand pat and accept the post if unanimously elected. The secretaries of the big powers practically insured his unanimous election, hoping thereby to establish contact with the United States government through Root's close relations with the Republican administration.

Root's telegram to Sir Eric Drummond, secretary general of the league, stated that he was not able to accept for personal reasons, but in private cablegrams to several of the court members, it was explained that he was too old.

Scott's Position Stronger.

Root's withdrawal strengthens the chances of James Brown Scott, because it is realized that he shares Root's principles, they having worked together for many years and being in a large part responsible for the drafting of the constitution of the court at The Hague in the summer of 1920. A number of the delegates who had intended to cast their ballots for Root will vote for Scott Wednesday.

It has been decided to refer the question of the league's competence to judge the Chile-Peru dispute to three jurists here. Senor Edwards, of Chile, stated that he was not prepared to admit that the league was licensed to intrude in purely South American affairs in violation of the Monroe doctrine. Senor Aramayo, of Bolivia, accepted tentatively for his country unless the government objects.

Outlines French Policy.

M. Bourgeois, in his speech to the assembly this morning, enunciated the French policy for the Washington conference, asserting that "it gives the league no cause for further prejudice, tends to the Pacific and disarmament arrangements between the countries directly involved."

Irinavasa Sastru, of India, rapped the United States bitterly in a speech to the assembly.

"I have no patience with people standing outside an organization and criticizing its work," he said. He also criticized the secretariat for hiring four Americans, whereas one Indian representative is employed.

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In President and Mrs. Harding's box were Secretary Hoover, who came by train from Atlantic City; George Van Fleet, editor of the Marion Star, and Mrs. Van Fleet; Alexander F. Moore and Lillian Russell, his wife. In the adjoining box were Secretary George Christian and Secret Service men.

Immediately after the show, President and Mrs. Harding returned to their hotel. Tomorrow the President hopes to play golf at Piping Rock, Long Island. The party will board the Mayflower tomorrow evening or Wednesday morning and cruise back to Washington.

URGES AUSTRALIA JOIN CONFERENCE

(Special Cable to The Washington Herald and Chicago Tribune.)

SYDNEY, Sept. 12.—Lord Northcliffe, since his arrival here, has been endeavoring to impress the Australians with the importance of the disarmament conference at Washington, to which he has returned in almost every speech or interview.

He expressed the view that Australia and New Zealand have more to gain or lose by the settlement of the Pacific problems than any other country, and should be represented at Washington even if a formal separate invitation was not issued, as the whole future of Australia may depend on the decisions of the conference.

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HARDING, DENBY AND DAVIS GIVEN NAVY WAGE PROTEST Group Representing Yard Employees Over- takes Presidential Party at Noon on Atlantic City Golf Course.

Two delegations representing navy yard employees yesterday presented President Harding and Cabinet members with copies of the resolutions adopted at a mass meeting Sunday protesting against the cut in navy employees' pay ordered by Secretary Denby on recommendation of the navy wage board.

A party consisting of William H. Johnston, president of the International Association of Machinists; Herbert P. Leeman, president of Columbia Lodge, No. 174, Machinists Union; and N. P. Alfias, president of District 44 of the International Association of Machinists, yesterday overtook the Presidential party at noon at a golf club on the outskirts of Atlantic City.

The President was preparing to leave for New York. George Christian, the President's secretary, assured the labor representatives that the resolutions would be brought to the attention of Harding at his first leisure moment.

Call on Denby and Davis.

A similar party representing the navy workmen called on Secretaries Denby and Davis